Art Unit 2137
Serial No.: 10/003,675   Attorney Docket No.: K35A1023

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) In a computer system including a host computer, a disk drive host interface and a disk drive having a disk storage medium with a first range of disk drive host interface addressable locations, a method for installing a mailbox file associated with the disk storage medium, the installation method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a disk drive access key from an access key server, the access key being generated by the access key server as a function of an identifying characteristic of the disk drive;

creating a mailbox file in the first range of addressable locations using the access key obtained from the access key server; and

notifying the disk drive of a location of the mailbox file in the first range of addressable locations, wherein the disk drive can perform a̶ an executable function characterized by contents of the mailbox file.

2.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the function is used to access a second range of addressable locations that are not disk drive host interface addressable and that are contained on the disk storage medium.

3.   (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the access key is required for an application program to access the second range of addressable locations via the mailbox file.

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4.   (Previously Presented) In a computer system including a host computer,
a disk drive host interface and a disk drive having a disk controller, a method for
accessing a mailbox file associated with a first range of disk drive host interface
addressable locations, the method comprising the steps of:

recognizing a command from a host operating system in reference to the mailbox
file associated with the first range of disk drive host interface addressable locations; and

responding to the command by performing within the disk controller an
executable function characterized by the contents of the mailbox file.

5.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the first
range of disk drive host interface addressable locations refers to a storage space
allocated in at least one of a disk storage medium and a computer memory associated
with the disk controller.

6.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the
mailbox file contains encrypted information.